Venkatachalliah, Chairperson of the "National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution", objecting to the making of such persons as members of the Commission who are linked to politics. In fact, the Members of the Commission have been selected with the knowledge and concurrence of Shri Justice M.N. Venkatachalliah.

Income tax on agricultural income

*79. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the agricultural sector has so far been kept out of the income tax net; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, agricultural income is aggregated with income other than agricultural income for determining the average rate of tax chargeable on income other than agricultural income.

Parliament has exclusive power under Article 246(1) of the Constitution of India to make laws in respect of matters enumerated in List I (Union List) in the Seventh Schedule. Entry 82 of the Union List reads "taxes on income other than agricultural income". Since Parliament can tax only income other than the agricultural income, the agricultural income has been kept out of income-tax net.

Import Duty on Edible Oil

*80. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the local market of edible oil and rice bran oil is suffering due to free import of oil from overseas market;

(b) what steps are being taken to increase the import duty on edible oil to protect the local manufacturers;